



## NEWSLETTER 4

Dear Ladies of Agora Club!

Agora Club International is growing – first Charters in Israel - Charters in The Netherlands, Germany, Morocco....and new Clubs in formation, see on page 2!!

Yours in continued friendship

Brigitte Colberg

ACI Secretary 2015-2017

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**Dear friends,**

the last newsletter gave an overview of the various projects for the benefit of our ISP EFTW. This edition number 4 will mainly be dedicated to the Charters we could celebrate these last weeks. More will follow the next months. I am really very happy to see that Agora is growing nationally and internationally. This is the result of the efforts made by the National Boards and the International Board encouraging and helping new Ladies to start and finally to charter new clubs. It is amazing to see this „explosion“ of new clubs in your countries.



***It is springtime!***



First of all on the 10th of March there was the exceptional double Charter of **AC Tel Aviv** and **AC Petach Tikvah** with the installation of the **National Board of Agora Club Israel**.

**Welcome Israel!**

Then the 25th of March followed the Charter of **AC Voorne-Putten** in **The Netherlands** and only one week later the charter of **AC Kulmbach** in **Germany**. **Welcome!**

**Italy** is growing, too! Charter of **AC Fermo** the 8th of April and **AC Rimini** the 20th of May. **Welcome!**

In **Morocco AC Rabat** chartered the 15th of April. **Welcome!**

Many other clubs are already in the „pipeline“, dynamic and motivated and willing to start.

Let us encourage them to go on - and to prepare their Charters! **We are waiting for you!**


**Please let us know about your clubs in formation and Charters!**

Keep an attentive eye on our website. We will keep you updated about the Charters to come. Catch the opportunity to travel and to meet your Agora friends worldwide.

Thanks to your commitment and your hard work Agora Club International will continue to grow constantly! Agora International is a healthy growing organization!

Thank you, my friends!

„Stronger United“

With Love 



**Ursula**

## LCI MTM in LICHFIELD

At the beginning of February, I went to UK to attend the LCI MTM middle European Region (Austria, Belgium, GB&I, Germany, Luxembourg, Romania & The Netherlands but there were also Circlers from Iceland and Denmark) in a small but very charming city, Lichfield. It was my first official representation as ACI Vice-President and I was a little bit anxious because I always like everything to be perfect.

I arrived on Friday in the middle of the afternoon and I was welcomed by a very nice and active woman, Clair, the Chairwoman of LC Lichfield and her husband at Birmingham's airport. They picked up other Ladies from Belgium, Denmark and Germany... Yes, the week-end just really started!



We went to the Guildhall where the registration desk was. Then, I met my home hostess, Stef, a very nice and available Lady and then, her kind husband Adam and their beautiful little girl Connie, 1 1/2 years old.

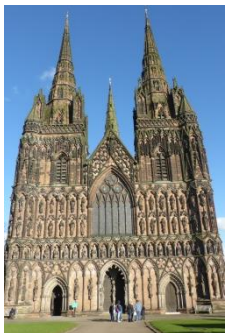
After a little rest, we came back to the (Guildhall) for the Welcome Party... an informal diner, "Best of British", typically English with Fish & Chips and white wine in a nice old room. During this I saw Gry Haugen, the LCI President, but also I met Anne Ahlefeldt, the LCI VP, for the 1st time. We had really a good feeling and we agreed to work side-by-side next year together for our Presidential year. The ambiance of this dinner was really nice and casual because as we were standing up all the evening everybody could speak to everybody else easily... and my shoes were very kind to me!

The day after, it was T-Time for the LCI Mid Term Meeting. After a short presentation of every people who was there, they made small groups to discuss about:

- LCI events costs how could they do to have better prices and same fees everywhere (the register was 150€ in Lichfield but 318€ in Roma!)
- To create a common month to organize charity projects all over the world (Charity march)
- How they could organize exchange number club as it already exists for Round Table
- How they could make the meetings at the LCI Conference more modern and more efficient

It was really interesting to take part to these discussions because we have nearly the same remarks about ACI events.

After the presentations of LCI Presidential's short report, LCI next event (AGM 2017, 2018 and 2019, MTM 2018, re-chartering of LC Sri Lanka next July), ISP 2015-2017 "LittleBigHelp", ISP 2017-2019 application from LC Botswana "Happy Hearts" it was time for a group picture and for lunch. Finally it was decided that I would speak during the greetings before the Gala Diner.



After Lunch, my home hostess, Stef, a nice Lady from Reading, Annie, and I visited the city: the small Park, the Cathedral (a very nice one!), the walking streets and a tea shop for our tea break.... important time in Great Britain!

The Gala dinner was held in a famous restaurant in Lichfield, Mac Kenzie restaurant, a very nice and old location. As usual, some Ladies from GB&I wore "Union Jack" tissues like scarfs or dresses, very colorful... "Blue, White, Red" was the dress code theme. After the different greetings, my speech, the dinner with typical English food: Roast beef and Pudding for dessert, we had the "clone" of Robbin Williams as a singer... and we danced a lot! It was really a great party but, as usual, it finished too earlier....

This LCI Meeting was really interesting because of the exchanges I could have with Anne Ahlefeldt, the LCI VP, but also with all the other circlers who were there from different countries of middle European regions and with the National President of Tangent GB&I, Paula Farnfield.

Now I am ready for my next ACI job!

*Isabelle Séguinot, ACI-VP 2016/2017*





## LCI-MTM in Rome

### **Rome in two days! The ladies of LC Italy made it possible with a tough pre-tour!**

For this LCI-MTM in Rome I decided to do a bit of sight-seeing. When I arrived late in the evening at the hotel, I was happy to still find someone at the registration desk. I was kindly received by the Italian ladies who took very good care of me during my stay in Rome.

I shared a suite with Hanane El Jassifi from Morocco but we took nearly two days to meet us in person! ;)

In the meantime we left notes and messages to each other. Really funny!

The Italian Ladies had prepared two one-day pre-tours to show us the most important sights in Rome. Foro Romano, Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Church, Fontana di Trevi, Cinecittà Studios..... I certainly forgot some....



*Colosseo with NP of LC Italy Federica Vigolo*



*Fontana di Trevi*



*LC, AC Morocco*



*With LCI-Treasurer Sirli and LCI-President Gry*

*and convenor Mary Bruttomesso*





*Impressing delegation of LC Morocco*



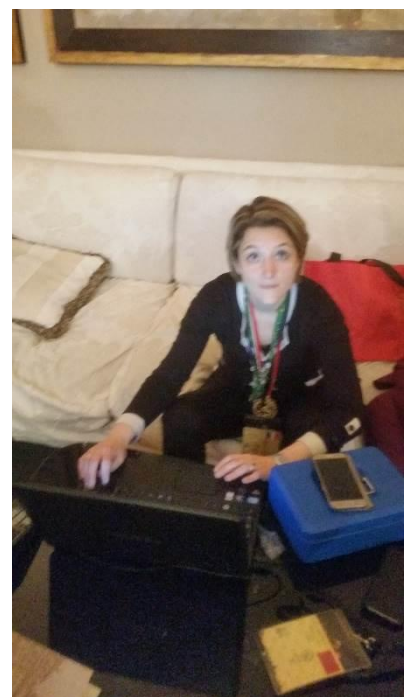
*Isn't Gry a beautiful Moroccan Lady?*



*Najwa from LC Casablanca 2*



*NP LC Italy Federica Vigolo, LCI-P Gry Haugen*



*The „Italian Angel“s  
working from early in  
the morning until late.. for a  
successful*

*LCI-MTM*

*Thank you!!*





## IT'S OFFICIAL NOW: Agora 8 Voorne Putten eo officially member of Agora The Netherlands and Agora International

March 25th was a sunny day in the fortified town of Hellevoetsluis, one of the towns on the island Voorne Putten where the members of Agora 8 live and/work. With local, national and International guests our charter became an unforgettable experience.

Months before THE date the ladies of the charter committee already started preparing the festivities. On one of our regular meetings we even made the chocolates for the cakes. We discussed several evenings about the colour of our scarves. We put little lights in plastic bags as a gift for our guests. We had a lot of fun and we were very excited. On March 24th three of our guests arrived: international president Ursula Lejeune, Dagny Agora Iceland and Anita Figved of Agora Norway. They spent an evening with their hosts and the pizza bus.



our guests. We our international Leifsdottir from cozy pre-charter



On the charter day the mayor of Hellevoetsluis, Milène Junius, welcomed us all to the historical town of Hellevoetsluis. She is a lovely lady with good ideas for serviceclubs and we will certainly stay in touch with her. And then....THE moment we have been waiting for. Els Clevis, president of Agora The Netherlands, together with Carmen read the charter. Els inaugurated Carmen as president of Agora 8 Voorne Putten eo and then Carmen inaugurated all the members. What a great moment! Ursula Lejeune as International president as well as Dagny Leifdottir from Iceland, Anita Figved

from Norway, Yvonne Houben, treasurer of Agora International our sisters from Agora Belgium gave us the good feeling of being part of an international and worldwide organization. Of course our godmother club Agora Noordwijk was present. We are very happy to have such a wonderful Agoraclub Eindhoven had even written a special song! We received wishes and gifts from the Agoraclubs in the Netherlands as well other from the is expanding. A lot of our fellow service clubs (Lions, Rotary, Soroptimists) of the area attended the charter and brought also good wishes and gifts. Before toasting club our president Carmen with a little help showed her talent to of champagne. Lunch, a visit to the historical ship "De Buffel" and a cozy drink with with a dinner guests



Agoraclubs in formation. It is great to see that Agora The Netherlands A lot of our fellow service clubs (Lions, Rotary, Soroptimists) of the the charter and brought also good wishes and gifts. Before toasting club our president Carmen with a little help showed her talent to of champagne. Lunch, a visit to the historical ship "De Buffel" and a our guests made this charter complete. We ended this fantastic day for our club and partners. Ursula, Dagny and Anita were our special



Our president Carmen had saved a lovely surprise for last: all the members of Agora 8 received a little gingko biloba tree. We will take good care of it.

We could not have had a better start as new Agoraclub. We were warmly welcomed in the national and international Agora family. A big thank you to the national and international boards, our godmother club Noordwijk and our sister clubs. And for all the congratulations that we received by social media.



Agora 8 Voorne Putten eo The Netherlands

Note: pictures are made by Marion Meyer Photography (mentioned on the picture), other pictures are made by Agora 8.



For the Charter of AC Israel 7 nations gathered on the 10th of March 2017 in Tel Aviv, among them representatives of AC Belgium, France, Romania, The Netherlands, Germany and Italy as godmother country with the biggest delegation.

The charter weekend started with a pre-tour in Haifa. Unfortunately I could not participate, but those who did, reported about impressing sights, Zivit as an enthusiastic guide and a very warm Israeli hospitality.

During the charter celebration on Friday morning AC 1 Tel Aviv and AC 2 Petah Tikva were chartered. Afterwards the national board of AC Israel was installed by ACI president Ursula

Lejeune. All speeches were full of warmth and friendship and the members of the other 3 Israeli clubs that are in the pipeline could soak up the Agora spirit. The Israeli ladies are very active in service projects with children.

After the charter we strolled along Carmel market with a very nice guide, having the chance to taste some typical food at different market stalls. Then we headed for the harbor town Jaffa, one of the oldest towns in the world. Nowadays Jaffa and Tel Aviv are melted together. The Jaffa tour was led by an actor, very funny way into the town. In the evening we were all invited to a home party in the house of AC Israel president Riki. There we had the great honor to be present at a Sabbath celebration with prayer, salted bread and wine. After a very tasteful dinner there was a lot of talking and dancing.



On Saturday morning we got up very early for a tour to Masada and the Dead Sea. In Jerusalem we walked from the Dolorosa to the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus Christ was crucified and buried. Masada was started as a castle and was changed into a



the Roman troops in the year 73 situation at that place the Jewish moment committed suicide except hidden in the well system and happened.



Jerusalem, the fortress Western Wall on the Via crucified and buried. fortress and conquered by a.D. Due to the hopeless people present in that for 3 ladies, who had witnessed what had

By the end of the day we had the chance to take a bath in the Dead Sea, which was a very special experience.



The weekend was full of warmth and friendship among the participants of all countries. We as German delegation were grateful and touched by the kindness and generosity of all the Israeli ladies and we were proud to call them our friends. We will never forget this feeling of togetherness and friendship.



I want to thank all Israeli ladies for their hospitality, for having organized such an interesting weekend and for having let us participate in their life. It was a pleasure for me, to meet Yifat, whom I had known for many years, and to get to know so many new Israeli ladies.

Let us all meet again soon in the Agora world!



## ***Bottoms-up***

In the beginning of March I read the Communiqué of 41 International and one picture particularly draw my attention to an article of Dr. V.Siddhartan, called Dr. Sid, and made me smile. He kindly allowed me to use picture and parts of it for my next newsletter. I wanted to share with you my interpretation. (The original article you find in the 41 communiqué of march available on 41 International website)



No, **bottom-up** does not mean what you see. ;)



In this case bottom up means that we need more discussions from floor members to officers than top-down initiatives. Bottom up communication provides us information about **your** needs, values, perceptions and opinions. This helps us to tailor our program according to your specific needs and to use **your** full talents. Bottom-up communication allows **you** to be part of the process and of **our common goal**.

Dear Ladies, I only can encourage you to contact us, to communicate with us during the year by all available means, phone, mail, whats App, fb-messenger to tell us what is your concern, what you like and what you don't like. The more we know from you, the more we can do for you! We are „StrongerUnited“.

With Love



***Ursula***

***Dear friends,***

***the whole International Board wish you HAPPY EASTER***

***Happy Pesach and HAPPY SEASON'S GREETINGS***



***Thanh Thao, Yvonne, Ursula, Brigitte and Isabelle***